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ABSTRACT

This book provides a guide to the study of genealogy, or family history, through the use of historical documents, artifacts, and private records. Intended mainly for students who wish to trace their family roots, it also can be used by anyone interested in the lives of African Americans throughout the years. Suggestions on how to find records that are publicly available are included. The book concentrates on how to trace one's roots back to an ancestor's arrival in the United States, emphasizing the difficult nature of the task. This book also illustrates the unique and important contributions of African Americans to U.S. culture. Chapters include: (1) "A Heritage to Celebrate"; (2) "Immigration in Chains" discussing the slave trade; (3) "Freedom and the African Cultural Diaspora"; (4) "Getting Started on Your Search" suggests using graveyards, heirlooms, and oral tradition as sources; (5) "The Census, and What It Doesn't Tell"; (6) "Searching for Slaves" discusses colored troops, county deed books, and early Black organizations; (7) "High-Tech Genealogy"; (8) "Nontraditional Families and Family Issues"; and (9) "Preserving Your Family History." Each chapter contains a resources section for further research. (EH)

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